

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 250969

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA: TTOMPKINS:SKG

APPROVED BY: NEA: TTOMPKINS

S/S-O: MTANNER

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O 230135Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 250969

EXDIS - FOR ASST SECY ATHERTON

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 250969 ACTION DAMASCUS INFO BEIRUT AND THE SEC

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RETARY 22 OCT 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 250969 TOSEC 160207

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINS

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF USIA OFFICERS IN BEIRUT

REF: BEIRUT 13087

1. YOU SHOULD SEE SHIHABI (OR OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL)
URGENTLY ABOUT KIDNAPPING. TELL HIM WHAT LITTLE WE KNOW
ABOUT INCIDENT (REFTEL). EMBASSY HAS TOLD US IN ADDITION
THAT AREA IN WHICH KIDNAPPING OCCURRED IS NORMALLY CON-
TROLLED BY PALESTINIANS (THOUGH THEY HAVE NOT SPECIFIED

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 250969

PARTICULAR GROUP). AREA IS ALSO MOSLEM ONE IN WHICH

JUMBLATT (AND OTHERS) PRESUMABLY HAVE SOME INFLUENCE.

2. YOU SHOULD TELL SHIHABI THAT WE ARE KEENLY AWARE OF HELPFUL ROLE SARG HAS BEEN ABLE TO PLAY TOWARD MODERATING PRESENT GENERAL DIFFICULT SITUATION IN LEBANON. WE ALSO RECALL WITH APPRECIATION SARG'S HELPFULNESS AT TIME OF COLONEL MORGAN'S ABDUCTION LASTJULY. IT OCCURS TO US THAT SARG COULD NOW AGAIN PLAY KEY PART IN HELPING OBTAIN EARLIEST POSSIBLE RELEASE OF THE TWO USIA OFFPCERS ABDUCTED IN BEIRUT THIS MORNING. IN THIS REGARD, WE UNDERSTAND THAT BOTH JUMBLATT AND ARAFAT HAPPEN NOW TO BE IN DAMASCUS.

3. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT WE BELIEVE IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT EFFECTIVE STEPS TO OBTAIN RELEASE BE TAKEN BEFORE POINT AT WHICH ONE GROUP OR ANOTHER OF ABDUCTORS MIGHT SEEK TO MAKE RANSOM DEMANDS. SHIHABI WILL RECALL THAT PUBLICATION OF DEMANDS AFTER MORGAN'S ABDUCTION SEVERELY COMPLICATED THE PROBLEMS OF OBTAINING HIS RELEASE.

4. SHIHABI WILL UNDERSTAND THAT TODAY'S ABDUCTION CAN ADD ADDITIONAL SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES AS ALL FRIENDS OF LEBANON DO THEPR BEST TO SEEK TO MODERATE UNFORTUNATE SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY.

5. REPORT PROMPTLY RESULT OF YOUR DEMARCHE. INGERSOLL

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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